



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Office of Emergency Medical Services

2 Boylston Street, 3rd Floor

Boston, MA 02116

(617) 753-7300

Fax: (617) 753-7320

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

RONALD PRESTON
SECRETARY

CHRISTINE C. FERGUSON
COMMISSIONER

SUMMARY

March 2004 Amendments

105 CMR 170.000, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Regulations

(Trauma System Implementation, Accreditation and Other Updates)

NOTE: This is a summary of changes made in these Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department) EMS regulations only. Read the actual regulations for definitive and specific requirements of these changes. Some of these provisions will also be further defined and explained in administrative requirements (A/Rs), educational materials and applications/reporting forms.

I. Trauma Care System Implementation – *Note: The majority of regulatory provisions to implement the trauma care system are in 105 CMR 130.000, the hospital licensure regulations. They are not reflected here, as this summary only addresses EMS regulations.*

- Prehospital point-of-entry
 - Developed by the Regional EMS Councils and approved by the Department prior to implementation (170.104(H))
 - By March 12, 2006, specific trauma care point-of-entry plans to be in place, including at a minimum, hospitals that are designated trauma centers (170.104(H))
 - Establishes requirement for ambulance services to ensure patient delivery in accordance with Department-approved point-of-entry plans (170.357)
- Ambulance data reports (170.347)
 - Establishes requirement for ambulance services to submit to the Department such data, including data pertaining to care and transport of trauma patients, as specified in administrative requirements (A/Rs).
 - Ambulance services shall have a 60-day review and comment period prior to the Department's establishing data submission requirements in A/Rs.

II. Accreditation of EMS Training Institutions

- Department-approved training (170.945)
 - Initial EMT Training: After June 30, 2005, only training institutions accredited by the Department may provide initial EMT training.

- Refresher and Continuing Education: May be provided by accredited training institutions under their accreditation, without any separate approvals, or may be provided by nonaccredited training providers, who must receive course-by-course approvals.
- General Provisions for Eligibility and Application (170.946)
 - Institution must provide, either directly or through contractual arrangements with another Department-accredited training institution or a post-secondary educational institution, a basic infrastructure for capable delivery of quality education.
 - Can be accredited at either BLS or ALS level, or both
 - Full Review Process: Applicant completes and submits Department's application form and \$500 fee, and undergoes on-site evaluation by the Department. Department makes finding that applicant is eligible, is responsible and suitable, and capable of meeting duties and responsibilities.
 - Substantially Equivalent Review Process: Applicant submits letter of intent to seek accreditation based on a substantially equivalent accreditation it holds, documents that accreditation and attests to commitment to fulfill duties of a Department-accredited institution. Department evaluates and confirms that accreditation is current, in good standing, and is approved as substantially equivalent.
 - Term of accreditation is three years. The accredited institution may provide initial, refresher and continuing education without separate Department approval.
 - Can be provisionally accredited for up to two years, if does not meet all requirements but demonstrates good-faith intent to meet them, along with evidence of potential for meeting all requirements.
- Duties and Responsibilities (170.950)
 - Meet administrative requirements for conduct of training, including instructor, staff, classroom/laboratory space requirements, etc.
 - Cooperate with Department and make available all records relating to provision of training in timely manner
 - Maintain an effective QA/QI system to evaluate program
 - Comply with Drug Control Program requirements for use and secure storage of controlled substances
 - Administer the Department-approved practical skills examination for state certification. Practical skills exams will continue to be overseen by the Department's Chief Examiners. Accredited institutions must host the exam, pay for Department-approved Examiners, and administer the exam in accordance with the Department's standards. Must provide exam to own students who are eligible, as well as others assigned by the Department.
- Training Programs by Nonaccredited Training Providers (170.960 and 170.964)
 - After June 30, 2005, may only provide refresher and continuing education programs.
 - Continue to submit applications for, and receive, individual approvals for each refresher and continuing education program.
 - Meet standards for such training programs, established in administrative requirements, including conformance of all subject matter taught to standards of practice in the Statewide Treatment Protocols.

III. Chief Examiners, Examiners and Instructor/Coordinators (I/Cs)

- General Provisions for Eligibility and Application (170.942-170.943 and 170.977-170.978)
 - Two-year term of Department approval, concurrent with EMT certification

- Must apply for initial and renewed approval on applications provided by the Department. Renewal application must be submitted 60 days prior to expiration of term. Will receive certificate of approval from the Department.
- Must comply with conflict of interest provisions established in Examiner's Manual
- Chief Examiner applicant may substitute other relevant experience plus completion of supplemental Chief Examiner training for previous experience as an Examiner
- Examiner applicant need not have one year's experience as an EMT
- Instructor/Coordinator applicant may substitute training found by the Department to be substantially equivalent for completing Department I/C training course
- To be eligible for renewal, Instructor/Coordinator must have actively instructed in an accredited initial EMT training program in the immediate past approval period
- Duties and Responsibilities (170.942 and 170.977)
 - Established for first time in regulation for all three positions
 - Chief Examiners to monitor and evaluate Examiners in writing

IV. Other Regulatory Updates and Changes

- Serious Incident Reporting (170.350(B)): Eliminates requirement to report third occurrence of the same incident involving same individual, equipment or device, even if it did not result in serious injury.
- Duty to Dispatch, Treat and Transport (170.355(A) and (C)): Makes explicit that the "treatment" portion of this duty includes assessment and treatment in accordance with the Statewide Treatment Protocols. Also clarifies that this is a duty for ambulance services and their EMTs.

If you have questions, please contact Abdullah Rehayem or Silva Cameron at DPH/Office of Emergency Medical Services, at 617-753-7300 or by email, abdullah.rehayem@state.ma.us or silva.cameron@state.ma.us.